

A Liturgy on Climate Change

Opening Hymn

Verse 1

For the beauty of the earth
For the glory of the skies
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise

Verse 2

For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night
Hill and vale, and tree and flower
Sun and moon, and stars of light
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise

Responsive Reading

God, help us to remember the goodness of Your creation, and so avoid the sin of ingratitude

For the whole universe is Your home, bearing witness to You and Your goodness:

“And God saw all that God had made and found it very good” (Genesis 1:31). “O Lord, How manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all, the Earth is full of your creatures.” (Psalm 104:24)

“Yours is the day, Yours is also the night. You established the luminaries and the sun, You have fixed all the bounds of the earth; You made summer and winter.” (Psalm 74:16-17)

God, help us to remember our role as stewards, and so avoid the sin of selfishness.

Let our pride of “ownership” be tempered by the knowledge that “The Earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof, the world and those that dwell therein.” (Psalm 24:1)

Let our voices find harmony with the rest of creation’s chorus: “Praise the Lord from all the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling God’s command. Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars.

Beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds. Rulers of the earth and all peoples, young men and maidens together, elders and children. Let them all praise the name of the Lord.” (Psalm 148)

God, help us to remember the generations to come, and so avoid the sin of shortsightedness.

Let us act with the sure belief that your promise extends from generation to generation.

Help us to “Choose life, that you and your descendants might live.” (Deut. 30:19)

For your wisdom teaches us that “a good person bequeaths to their children’s children.” (Proverbs 13:22)

God, help us to live prudently, and so avoid the sins of complacency and denial

Science is never completely certain. But as we learn from Proverbs, (22:3) “The wise person foresees trouble and takes cover, while the fool keeps going and pays the penalty.”

The life, the lives, You create are precious. Let us strive always to prevent tragedy, not merely to heal wounds once they have been inflicted.

As we learn from Deuteronomy (22:8): “When you build a new house, you shall make a parapet for your roof, so that you do not bring bloodguilt on your house if anyone should fall from it.”

God, help us to build a Godly economy, so that we avoid the sins of greed and worship of wealth.

For “Greatness, and power, and glory, and success, and majesty, are all Yours, O God. Both riches and honor come of you.” (Chronicles I 29:11-12)

Let us turn from the golden calves we have made

And remember that our economy should serve the people and Your will, not the reverse.

God, help us to live so that all are our sisters and brothers, and so avoid the sin of callousness to strangers.

We are taught (Deut. 16:20) “Justice, justice shall you pursue, that you may live and inherit the earth.” Justice is repeated to remind to seek justice both in our ends and our means, both when it benefits us personally and when it calls for us to make sacrifices.

And we in the United States, rich in blessings, have a special calling.

For as we read in Luke (12:48) “Everyone to whom much is given, from them will much be required.”

Most of all, God, help us always to work for the protection of the vulnerable, the “least of these,” and so avoid the sins of wrongful power and hubris.

The whole Bible teaches us of God’s special compassion for the most vulnerable: “Those who withhold what is due to the poor affront their Maker; those who care for the vulnerable honor God.” (Proverbs 14:31)

“The Lord will champion the cause of the poor, the rights of the needy.” (Psalm 140:13) Help us to join with You in championing justice, in caring for creation, in preserving the future, in living lives in accord with Your will.

Message

Responsive Reading

We are not alone: "And God said to Noah and to his children, 'I now establish My covenant with you and your children for generations to come, and with every living thing that is with you -- birds, cattle, and every wild beast as well -- all that have come out of the ark, every living thing on earth.'"

Talmud, Sukkah, 52a "When the way is long, companionship is joyously gratifying.

Psalm 46: 4-5 "There is a river whose streams gladden God's city. The holy dwelling-place of the Most High. God is in her midst, she will not be toppled; by the break of dawn God will come to her aid."

James 1:2-3 "Count it all joy, my friends, when you meet various trials, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."

Nachman of Bratzlav "All the world all together is a very narrow bridge. The important thing is not to be afraid."

Closing Song

*Kol ha-olam kulo gesher tzar m'od, gesher tzar m'od, gesher tzar m'od
Kol ha-olam kulo gesher tzar m'od, gesher tzar m'od.
V'ha-eekar, v'ha-eekar lo lifachayd, lo lifachayd klal
V'ha-eekar, v'ha-eekar, lo lifachayd klal.
(All the world all together is a very narrow bridge. The important thing is not to be afraid.)*

(Two links to this song = <http://www.greatjewishmusic.com/Audio/KOLHAO~1.mp3>
http://www.fishponds.freeserve.co.uk/music/kol_haolam28.ra

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